

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP PROMOTION ACT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Promotion Act. I am proud to be joined by my fellow Sportsmen's Caucus co-chairman Representative JOHN TANNER and the distinguished members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Committee, Representative JOHN DINGELL and Representative CURT WELDON. This legislation will enable the Federal Duck Stamp office to use the Migratory Bird Conservation Funds (MBCF) to create a promotional program that will increase the sales of the duck stamps, just as the Postal Service uses its postage revenues to promote stamp sales and stamp collecting.

Since the Federal Duck Stamp was created on March 16, 1934, it has been one of America's most successful conservation initiatives. Since 1934, more than \$500 million has been raised through the purchase of Federal Duck Stamps. Indeed, 98 percent of the program's revenue has been dedicated to the purchase of prime wildlife habitat. It has made possible the purchase of more than 500 million acres of wildlife habitat benefiting waterfowl, other migratory birds, and wildlife in general.

Unfortunately, duck stamp sales have leveled off in recent years due to the absence of additional markets for the duck stamp. This act will permit a broader promotion of the stamp, increasing stamp revenues, that will allow more habitat to be purchased and protected.

This legislation is supported by the U.S. Federal Wildlife Service and the Federal Duck Stamp Office. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this legislation.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT ELARTON

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary achievements of Scott Elarton who was recently called to pitch for the Houston Astros, a National League Baseball club. Elarton is the 22 year old son of L.D. and Mary Elarton of Lamar, Colorado.

Elarton, who was Valedictorian of the Lamar High School class of 1994 and forfeited a full-ride scholarship to Stanford in order to play professional baseball, has enjoyed success in the National Baseball League. He was 9–4 with a 4.01 ERA in 14 starts for the Class-AAA Pacific Coast League in New Orleans. In

his first four minor-League seasons, Elarton went 44–23 with a 3.50 ERA in 96 starts. His best season was 1996, when he was 12–7 with a 2.92 ERA at Kissimmee in the Class-A Florida State League. Last year in 20 starts at Jackson in the Double-A Texas League, Elarton was 7–4 with a 3.24 ERA and leading the league in strikeouts. Elarton also made headlines when, pitching in Puerto Rico during the winter, he threw the league's first no-hitter in 15 years against a lineup that featured eight major-league players.

Elarton pitched his first major-league game in Houston against the Cincinnati Reds on June 20. However, the Colorado native soon found himself back at home pitching against the Colorado Rockies in front of a crowd including three hundreds fans who traveled from Lamar to see their favorite player.

As a Member of Congress representing the Fourth District in Colorado, I am proud to recognize this fine young man for the excellence he has achieved in every aspect of his life. He is a tremendous example of the success found when hard work and dedication are coupled with integrity. He is an asset to his community as he serves as a role model for young men and women. I feel privileged to represent Scott Elarton and his family and congratulate them on this milestone.

TAX CUT OPPORTUNITY

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of my colleagues the following article, "Tax Cut Opportunity," written by Pete Du Pont for the June 18, 1998, edition of the Washington Times. This article notes the opportunity before us to reduce the tax burden on American citizens at this time of peace and prosperity.

[From the Washington Times, June 18, 1998]

TAX CUT OPPORTUNITY

(By Pete Du Pont)

As any healthy liberal will tell you, in times of war, pestilence, recession or social disorder, government spending must increase to meet the challenge. And so taxes must increase as well to pay the costs of government intervention.

But what of good times? In times of peace, prosperity, growth and harmony, should government spending and taxes still increase?

Surely the answer is no. In good times the rate of government should shrink. And so it is time for a significant tax cut.

There are many ways to cut taxes: end the marriage penalty, reduce the capital gains tax rate, or eliminate death taxes, for example.

But the best way is to cut income tax rates across the board by 23 percent. Why that amount? Because that would bring tax revenues as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) back to what they were when President Clinton took office. But since govern-

ment tax receipts have increased 35 percent since 1993, the 23 percent tax cut is far less than the five-year increase in revenues.

Recall that when Mr. Clinton took office in 1993, one of his first legislative acts was to increase taxes. Revenues have increased by approximately a tenth of a percent of GDP every single quarter since Bill Clinton became president.

Revenues were 19 percent of GDP in the first quarter of 1993 when he took office. They have risen almost continuously each quarter since then, and federal revenue now stands at 21.5 percent of GDP as of fourth-quarter 1997. With the GDP at \$8 trillion, this is equivalent to a tax increase of \$8 billion every three months for the last five years.

But suppose instead the fiscal policy of the Congress had been to hold the percentage of GDP consumed by taxes constant. Government revenues would have increased over the five years by \$292 billion (24 percent), and the taxpayers would have received a tax cut of \$419 billion, which is \$1,558 per person or \$6,230 for a family of four. We could have cut federal taxes by \$172 billion last year, and taxes as a share of GDP would have been no lower than they were before Mr. Clinton became president.

Despite the small tax cut enacted by Congress in 1997, forecasts indicate revenues as a share of GDP will remain at historically high levels for the foreseeable future. Last month, the Congressional Budget Office reported that revenues will be at least 21 percent of GDP until at least the year 2000, and are expected to be at least 20 percent of GDP until the year 2050. To borrow a phrase, rapidly increasing revenues stretch as far as the eye can see.

We are living in the best of times, in peace and prosperity. Our budget is balanced, our revenues are in surplus. Yet our tax burden is as high as it has ever been—in times of peace and war, in good times or bad. Now is the time to restore some balance in our fiscal policies. Now is the time to reduce the percentage of GDP taken by taxes back to its 1992 level.

Congress could do many things with the tax code to reduce its burden on us. But the best thing, the fairest thing, is to enact a 23 percent cut in federal income taxes. By reducing federal income tax rates by 23 percent, we would effectively restore the tax burden to its pre-Clinton level.

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented economic boom, and an unprecedented period of peace. Our current federal tax levels reflect neither of these realities. When the world is at peace, the budget is balanced and the economy the strongest in decades, tax policy should reflect the times in which we now live: peace and prosperity. The time for a tax cut is today.

TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.